

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1379

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS OF MOOD OF ELECTORATE

1. WHILE FAR TO EARLY TO SENSE ATTITUDE OF VOTER ON JUNE 20, ONE MONTH FROM ELECTION THERE IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT MANY VOTERS HAVE FEAR OF COMMUNIST ADVANCE. THIS FEAR COUPLED WITH FRUSTRATION THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS PLAYING SAME OLD GAME WITH SAME OLD PLAYERS. IN GENERAL OLDER ITALIANS PREPARED TO "HOLD NOSE" AND VOTE WHILE YOUNGER VOTER AVOIDING AN INDICATION THAT THEY WILL VOTE FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

2. SOME INDICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL VIEWPOINTS FOLLOW:

INDUSTRIALIST: I AM TELLING MY FASCIST FRIENDS TO VOTE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT SINCE MSI VOTE WASTED. MY OFFICE STAFF OF 20 WILL VOTE AS I TELL THEM (DC) BUT THE WORK FORCE IS BEYOND CONTROL AND WILL VOTE HEAVILY FOR PCI.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN: I AM TRAVELING TO GERMANY ON JUNE 18 AND I WILL NOT COME BACK IF COMMUNISTS WIN.

HOUSEWIFE: ALTHOUGH IT "MAKES MY STOMACH JUMP" I WILL VOTE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT BECAUSE I WOULD RATHER BE POOR THAN LIVE IN A PRISON.

FEMALE OFFICE WORKER: I AM TELLING MY FRIENDS TO VOTE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT IF THEY ASK MY OPINION BUT I COULDN'T

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DO IT IF I WAS FORCED; I WILL VOTE REPUBLICAN.

YOUNG MALE OFFICE WORKER: ALL POLITICANS ARE CROOKS. I
CAN'T VOTE FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS BECAUSE THEY HAVE
ROBBED US FOR 30 YEARS AND I WON'T VOTE FOR THE COMMUNISTS;
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. "IS IT HARD TO IMMIGRATE TO THE
UNITED STATES".

3. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, MANY ITALIANS FEARFUL OF EXPRESSING
OPINION ON POLITICS. ALSO THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL FELLING
THAT SOMEHOW VOTE CAN BE DISCOVERED BY REVIEWING VOTING LIST.
WHETHER THIS TRUE OR NOT, BELIEF PROBABLY HAS SOME AFFECT
ON FINAL DECISION OF SOME VOTERS. COBURN

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